

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation for a substrate having abstractable hydrogen radicals, the formulation including a hydrophilic polymeric component comprising at least two polymeric species of differing molecular weights, an unsaturated hydrophilic monomer capable of free-radical polymerisation in the presence of a radical and a UV activatable compound capable of abstracting hydrogen radicals from the surface to be coated and from a polymeric specie of the hydrophilic polymeric component so as to initiate and promote the cross-linkage of the monomer to the surface and of the monomer or a propagating monomer chain to a polymeric specie of the polymeric component, and a suitable solvent, and wherein said formulation is suitable for coating on an implantable biomedical device.

Claim 16 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 15, wherein the unsaturated hydrophilic monomer has at least two acrylate functional groups.

Claim 17 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 15, wherein the at least two polymeric species include different functional groups.

Claim 18 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 15, wherein the at least two polymeric species comprise chemically different polymers.

Claim 19 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 15, wherein the at least two polymeric species comprise straight chain or branched chain polymers.

Claim 20 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 15, wherein at least one polymeric species comprises a relatively lower molecular weight

polymer and at least one polymeric species comprises a relatively higher molecular weight polymer.

Claim 21 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 20, wherein the relatively lower molecular weight polymer has molecular weight in the range of 40kDa to 100kDa and the relatively higher molecular weight polymer has a molecular weight in the range of 100kDa to 1500kDa.

Claim 22 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 20, wherein the weight ratio of the lower molecular weight polymer to the higher molecular weight polymer is at least about 1-3 to at least about 1-2.

Claim 23 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 15, wherein the UV activatable compound is selected from any of a group that use a hydrogen abstraction mechanism to initiate polymerisation, including aryl ketones such as benzophenone, xanthone and dichlorobenzophenone.

Claim 24 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in claim 23, wherein the UV activatable compound is benzophenone.

Claim 25 (new): A biocompatible coating formulation as in any one of claims 15-24, wherein the monomer for the coating formulation is acrylic acid, which has the functionality to react both with the substrate and with the polymeric specie on initiation of the hydrogen abstraction mechanism by the UV activatable compound.

Claim 26 (new): A biocompatible coating mixture for a biomedical device which has labile hydrogen radicals available for abstraction, the mixture comprising acrylic acid monomer, at least two hydrophilic polymeric species of differing molecular weight and a UV activatable compound capable of abstracting labile hydrogen radicals from the surface to be coated and from at least one of the polymeric species so that on activation of the UV activatable compound, the components bond to the surface of the biomedical device to coat it with a hydrophilic, interpenetrating matrix of polymers, and wherein said formulation is suitable for coating on an implantable biomedical device.

Claim 27 (new): A coating formulation as in claim 26, wherein the UV activatable compound comprises benzophenone.

Claim 28 (new): A coating formulation as in claims 26 or 27 wherein the polymeric species comprise polyvinylpyrrolidone.